

PLEASE NOTE:

THE SATIRICAL SKETCH BY WTOP-TV NEWS
REPORTER STEPHEN GEER REGARDING THE AGENCY'S
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND HIS SONG FOR THE CIA STARTS
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OF THIS ARTICLE.

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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TOP CIA OFFICIAL SUSPENDED

SAM DONALDSON: "A top official of the Central Intelligence Agency, who is involved in the latest CIA story to hit page one, has been suspended with pay, pending a full investigation.

"Fifty-five year old Hans Tofte says the Agency for which he works sent agents to snoop through his Georgetown home. The Agency says Tofte had classified documents in his home that should not have been there.

"For more on the bizarre story, here is Robert Windsor."

WINDSOR: "According to the Central Intelligence Agency, the investigation began at this house at 1667 - 35th Street, N. W., on July 23rd. Hans Tofte had sold the house in June to J. C. Chatel Realty Company, which listed a basement apartment for rent or the house for sale.

"CIA employee Kenneth R. Slocum and his wife were looking for a place to live and arranged to see the apartment on Saturday. They were shown through the house by Tofte's mother-in-law, Charlotte Leister. It was then that Slocum discovered classified documents on the third floor of the house 'purely by chance,' as the Agency puts it. The next day, July 24th, the Slocums returned with an Agency security investigator and Mrs. Leister let them in. The CIA men removed the documents from the house and turned them over to the Agency which, in turn, began its investigation.

"But on Monday, July 25th Mrs. Tofte discovered that nearly twenty thousand dollars worth of jewels had been taken from a first floor closet. She notified the Metropolitan Police who launched their own investigation of the matter.

"Hans Tofte told WTOP News today that it's not unusual for high officials and some other employees of CIA to take papers home to work on them. He said the documents were in a package under a blanket, and that Slocum had no business going through the house.

"The real estate agent, J. C. Chatel, said he may file suit

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against the CIA for illegal entry, perhaps within the next two weeks.

"Tofte has been with the CIA for sixteen years. During World War II his work with the Office of Strategic Services, predecessor of the CIA, earned him the Legion of Merit.

"Reporter Bill Diehl asked him today about the investigation."

DIEHL: "Now, you have been out to see some of your officials out at the CIA today. Was there any talk of firing you at all, or demoting you from your job, or anything of this nature?"

TOFTE: "Oh, I heard words like termination and demotion and -- not today. Today we were -- I was asked whether I wanted to discuss any reasons why they should not consider suspension. I was then told very fairly that I didn't have to say anything I didn't want to."

DIEHL: "How do you think you're going to come out in all this?"

TOFTE: "I have no idea, but I do know that since I came over here as a refugee this business first -- the OSS, then the CIA -- that has sort of been my family. I know I have many, many, many good friends. The thing that irks me is that the system has worked out in such a way that it looks as if you can be dropped as an old banana peel without seeing your best friends. So when I found that my home was invaded -- my lawyer calls it grand larceny -- and my 86-year-old mother-in-law -- my senior citizen -- was bamboozled, I was outraged. Nobody pushes my family around and nobody pushes any senior citizen around in my presence."

WINDSOR: "Tofte met with CIA officials this afternoon and was told he has been suspended with pay until a thorough probe is completed on the charge that he violated Agency security regulations. He told us he hopes the matter can be straightened out somehow or other."

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DONALDSON: "Earlier on 'Newsnight' we reported on the latest CIA controversy, the disagreement between the Agency and one of its officials, Hans Tofte.

"Stephen Geer has some observations on the problems of the CIA."

GEER: "Obviously, what's needed is a good public relations firm. Everything the Central Intelligence Agency touches these days turns sour, and that's a pity, because as long as there's spying to be done and an agency to do it, the American public should

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have a good, warm feeling in its heart when it thinks about that agency. For a number of years now, British intelligence has put its best foot forward. James Bond may bumble occasionally, but he's obviously a good guy leading the good life.

"The CIA, however, doesn't have James Bond to improve its image. What does the American public think about when it thinks about the CIA? Well, the Bay of Pigs, of course, and letters from the wrong people to the wrong newspapers, and the wrong governments toppled here and there, and missing jewelry and bamboozled mothers-in-law, and that sort of thing.

"And, as I say, that's a pity, because I'm sure the CIA does all kinds of fine spying work around the world, the type of stuff we never hear about. That's the heart of the matter naturally. The CIA is the sort of service that's hard to sell to the public, not because the public wouldn't be pleased if it knew, but because if the public did know, well, after all, spying is supposed to be secret, you know.

"So, the public relations problem is clear-cut: there're going to be these little incidents that create bad feeling. That's to be expected. The thing to do is to overcome them by creating a general feeling of goodwill.

"And how do you do that? Certainly you can't be specific and give away a lot of trade secrets. What you do is build a public relations campaign that emphasizes the need for the CIA and all the good work it does. And how to go about that? Well, consider for a moment, there's at least one man running for governor in Maryland whose campaign is quite non-specific. It's based on a campaign song that we hear time and again on radio and television.

"It's clear that the CIA needs a song, and here it's one up on political candidates, because it can get free broadcast time as a public service, whereas the candidates have to pay. I think something like this might do the trick, to the tune of 'Camp Town Races.'

"The CIA will spy for you, do-da, do-da,
To keep our country free and true, help the CIA.
Gonna spy all night, gonna spy all day.
The Agency that spies for you.
Support your CIA."

"Perhaps a good public relations firm could polish that up a bit."